

GOOD NEIGHBORLY NEWS

ISSUE 2

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PUBLICATION

SUMMER - 2009

Block Captains:

Please distribute this newsletter to your block participants.

Don't forget to sign up for **e-mailed crime alerts**. To register, e-mail me at jsasw@ci.carlsbad.ca.us and get details.

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Website

www.carlsbadca.gov

Emergency

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Non-emergency

760-931-2197

Crime Statistic Hotline

760-931-2201

Other Crime Statistics

760-931-2279

Police Watch Commander

760-931-2115

Traffic Unit

760-931-2290

Narcotics Unit

760-931-2195

Records Division

769-931-2119

Detective Division

760-931-2145

Community Services

760-931-2177

The Crime Prevention Unit's Mission is the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it.

Let's do it together!

Hotel/Motel Travel Safety

The higher the better

In multi-story hotels, rooms above the fifth-floor are usually safer because of lesser accessibility and ease of escape. Also, rooms not adjacent to fire stairs are safer because the stairs can be used for escape.



Check your door

Hotel/motel doors should be solid-core wood or metal for best protection. Doors should be self-closing and self-locking with a deadbolt lock utilizing a one-inch throw.

Check your lock. If the lock appears worn or there are pry marks around the lock, get another room or move to another hotel.

A knob-lock should be hotel-style where you can push a button on the inside knob and block out all keys. This prevents a former guest or housekeeper from entering your room.

Hotels with electronic card access disable former keycards issued to previous guests and unauthorized employees. Electronic locks also will block out most room service keys when you set the deadbolt.

Finally, the room door should have a wide-angle peephole so you can view who is at the door before opening.

Use caution

After unlocking the room, quickly inspect the closets, under the bed, and bathroom including behind the shower curtain. Do not open your door to someone you are not expecting. Someone might be pretending to be a bellman, room service,

maintenance, or even hotel security to get into your room. Call the front desk to see if a hotel employee was sent to your room. Do not rely on door chains or swing bars to secure the doors while you partially open the door to speak someone.

Other entry points

Test all windows and sliding doors to see if they are secured. Beware of balconies where someone can climb from one to another. If the windows or sliding doors are not securable, ask for another room or find another hotel.

If your room has an adjoining door to an adjacent room, check it to see that it is secured with a deadbolt lock. If not, ask for another room.

Traveling alone

If you are traveling alone or with small children, take advantage of hotel/motel services like valet and bellmen. This helps you avoid dark parking lots and gives you an escort to your room.

Do-Not-Disturb



Put the Do-Not-Disturb sign on the doorknob even when you are away, this deters unwanted guests. Turn on the TV or radio just loud enough to hear through the door to give the appearance that the room is occupied. Leave one light on inside. This helps you see upon re-entry and makes the room seem occupied

from the outside. Always inspect the room when you re-enter.

Finally, use caution when using the breakfast order door-knob hanger card. This card lists your name and number of persons in the room.

Carlsbad Crime Down!

Crime in Carlsbad is down over 20 percent this year when compared to the same time last year.

The total number of FBI index crimes decreased from 1,359 in the first six months of 2008 to 1,071 in the first six months of this year.

The **violent crimes** category includes homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The number of rapes and robberies decreased in the first half of this year compared to the same time last year, while the number of aggravated assaults increased.

The **property crimes** category includes burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft. Property crimes decreased from 1,261 in the first half of 2008 to 916 in 2009, a decrease of *27 percent*. Commercial burglaries, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft all saw decreases, while residential burglary increased 14 percent from 113 mid-year 2008 to 129 mid-year 2009.

This decrease in crime reflects the hard work being done by citizens and police alike, and residents can feel safe living in Carlsbad.

However, residents should continue to take precautions to reduce their risk of being a victim of crime by removing the opportunity for crime. This means always lock or secure your property.

Think Green for Safety

In 1285, King Edward I decreed that highways be cleared by a width of 200 feet on either side, "...so that no cover for malefactors should be allowed". Seven centuries later, removing greenery is still common practice to deter crime.

While some studies have shown that vegetation is related to crime and the fear of crime, a study in an urban neighborhood suggested the opposite. University of Illinois researchers Frances E. Kuo and William C. Sullivan tested the common wisdom that barren spaces are safer than green ones.

We're watching and we care

Green spaces bring people together outdoors. The conspicuous presence of people increase surveillance, which discourages criminals. More people outdoors means that threatening behavior is more likely to be observed.

At the same time, potential criminals sense that they are being watched. The green and groomed appearance of an apartment building is itself a cue that residents and owners care about a property, and watch over it and each other. Landscaping creates a sense of identity and ownership, sending an important message to criminals.

We're calm

A large body of research indicates that time spent in nature lessens mental fatigue, inattentiveness, irritability and impulsivity—states of mind that psychologists recognize as precursors to violence. Greenery helps people to relax and renew, reducing aggression and increasing calm.

Compared with an apartment building that had little or no greenery, building with high levels of greenery had roughly half as many crimes (48%) as buildings with no greenery. Even a building with medium amounts of greenery had 42 percent less total crime.



1. Think twice about removing trees or greenery for security reasons. Greenery that adequately promotes surveillance may also promote safety. Landscaping can define territory, control access and create ownership.
2. Landscape with tall trees, grass, groundcover, low growing shrubs and flowers. Such spaces unite neighbors and may inhibit criminals. Use the 2:6 rule. Ground cover, bushes and shrubs should be no higher than about 2 feet and tree canopies should be no lower than about 6 feet.
3. Spend time daily in the green outdoors. Doing so helps refresh the mind, and dissolves anxiety and tension.
4. Support tree planting and tree care. A little green goes a long way.

Green spaces are gathering places that create close knit communities and improve well being. Thus they reduce the risk of crime, reduce the occurrence of crime and increase the quality of life. A win, win, win, situation.

A little Effort- a Lot of Benefit

"Offenders often operate in a rational fashion; they prefer to commit crimes that require the least effort, provide the highest benefits, and pose the lowest risks". A quote from the National Institute of Justice, "Physical Environment and Crime" by authors Taylor and Harrell.

This means if you apply a little effort to securing your house, vehicle and other property, criminals don't want to apply the effort to foil your security.

Especially in this hot weather, take the time to properly secure your property. Don't leave windows open, even on the second floor while you are gone. Someone might just crawl in.

